



**United States Attorney's Office
District of Columbia**

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, June 25, 2010

USAO Public Affairs
(202) 514-6933
www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc

District Man Sentenced to Nine-And-a-Half Years in Jail for Attempted First Degree Sexual Abuse and Two Counts of Obstructing Justice

WASHINGTON - A thirty-four year-old District of Columbia man was sentenced to nine-and-a-half years incarceration by Judge Lynn Leibovitz in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia on June 24, 2010, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced today. The defendant, whose name is being withheld to protect the identity of the victim, pleaded guilty on February 22, 2010 to one count of Attempted First Degree Sexual Abuse for raping his wife, as well as two counts of Obstructing Justice in connection with threats that he made against her.

According to evidence presented at the plea hearing, on June 29, 2009, the defendant was arguing with his wife. During the argument, the victim went into the bathroom and locked the door. The defendant became angry and used a knife to unlock the bathroom door. Inside the bathroom, the defendant threatened and repeatedly hit the victim and shoved her against the wall, separating her shoulder. The defendant then forced the victim against the bathroom sink, where he raped her. DNA evidence linked the defendant to the crime.

The defendant was arrested and initially charged on June 30, 2009, in connection with the rape. While the case was pending, on August 12, 2009, the defendant contacted the victim by telephone and told her that he would kill her if she testified against him. Then, in March or April of 2009, the defendant threatened to kill the victim if she testified against him in a separate domestic violence case that was then pending against the defendant in Superior Court. That case involved an allegation that the defendant had assaulted the victim in February of 2009. After threatening the victim if she testified against him, the defendant tore up and threw out the subpoena which with the victim had been served to testify in that case.

In announcing her sentence, Judge Leibovitz cited to the defendant's prior history of domestic violence against his wife and the risk of future dangerousness as reasons for the lengthy sentence. The defendant had asked for a sentence of six years. In addition to serving nine-and-a-half years in jail, the defendant will be on supervised release for five years after his release from incarceration. He is also required to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen praised the outstanding work of the lead Detective, Yvette Maupin, of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD). He also acknowledged the great work of the following additional MPD personnel who assisted in the investigation of this case: Detectives William Weeks, Wandella Fields and Jose Solloso; Officer Demar Rogers; Evidence Technicians James Holder, James Savage and Thomas Coughlin; and DNA Examiner Jennifer Zeffer and Forensic Biologist Krystyna Hopkinson of the MPD Crime Lab. U.S. Attorney Machen further commended the support of various staff of the U.S. Attorney's Office, especially the outstanding work of Victim Advocate Meshall Thomas; and the support of Paralegal Specialists Cynthia Muhammad, Joyce Arthur and Jason Manuel; Legal Assistant Charmonique Price; and Litigation Technology Specialists Leif Hickling and Joshua Ellen. Finally, he praised Assistant U.S. Attorney David M. Rubenstein, who investigated and prosecuted the case.